

FAST FACTS



United Nations Development Programme

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

UNDP's Work in Crisis Prevention and Recovery in Africa



Sub-Saharan Africa has seen considerable progress toward solving conflicts and consolidating peace, led by countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone and Burundi that were once torn by civil war but are now on the path to long-term development.

However, the region remains prone to armed conflict, political instability and State collapse, often in areas where fragile or failing states neighbor one another. The region is still home to complex political situations, protracted crises or political and religious violence. Newly independent South Sudan presents a unique challenge, faced with the tasks of nation- and State-building in a security situation that remains highly volatile.

Africa is also prone to natural disasters, including extreme weather events, which can have devastating consequences for human development. This is exemplified by recent events in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, where droughts, leading to failed harvests and food price increases, have created pockets of acute food insecurity.

UNDP in action

Building resilience to conflicts and disasters is at the very heart of UNDP's work. UNDP helps countries prevent armed conflict, alleviate the risk and effects of disasters from natural hazards

MATTERS OF FACT

- Beyond the catastrophic loss of life and property, which are too often the consequences of violent conflict or natural disasters, crisis can destroy institutions, fracture social relations, and polarize political culture.
- Economic losses from post-election violence in **Kenya** in 2008 have been assessed at US\$3.6 billion. In contrast, a UNDP-supported violence prevention effort in the run-up to the 2010 constitutional referendum cost only about \$5 million.
- The interaction between conflict and disaster creates and perpetuates vulnerabilities that place communities at risk. The 2012 uprising in **Mali**, coupled with the return of 250,000 refugees from Libya, have exacerbated the food security situation in the Sahel.
- Women remain excluded from meaningful participation in decision-making and peace processes at the national and local levels.

and build back better and stronger when crises happen. When a crisis strikes, UNDP ensures that while the humanitarian response focuses on the immediate lifesaving needs of a population, those responsible also work towards longer-term development objectives.

Crisis Prevention: UNDP helps to prevent violent conflict, working with local communities and governments to manage disputes through inclusive participation and dialogue. We focus on women, who are disproportionately affected by conflict.

In **Ghana**, UNDP supports the National Architecture for Peace through a USD 4 million programme that has successfully promoted community dialogue and served as an early warning mechanism on potential conflicts since 2005. The scheme has led to the creation of national, regional and district-level peace councils that directly mediate disputes between rival political and ethnic factions.

In **Kenya**, UNDP helped to establish Uwiano, a multimedia and text-messaging platform that has contributed to maintaining peace during the country's 2010 referendum and 2013 election. Because women have a fundamental role to play in preventing violence, a women's situation room was set up to monitor and report incidents as well as spread messages of peace in the

2013 ballot.

Ahead of the **Senegalese** election of February 2012, UNDP supported a network of 20 influential women's groups – from the highest levels to the grassroots – who set up meetings among civil society organizations and political parties, encouraging them to call for calm.

Post-Conflict Recovery: In the aftermath of conflict, UNDP supports national authorities to deliver essential public services – including security, access to justice and the rule of law -- and gain control of their recovery process as quickly as possible.

In **South Sudan's** Eastern Equatoria State, UNDP helped authorities to extend their reach across the State's territory, building infrastructure and supporting their ability to perform vital functions such as rule of law, policing and managing the development process. 19 district police posts, police headquarters and security access roads were built, bringing more accessible law enforcement to at least 30,000 people. In addition, we built 19 boreholes for human consumption, serving approximately 9,500 people and helping to reduce the chances of conflict over cattle.

In the North of **Uganda**, young volunteers trained in peace-building and conflict resolution helped to settle land disputes and mitigate domestic violence under a programme aiming to facilitate recovery and resettlement of displaced populations in areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Between 2009 and 2012, the programme solved 2,288 community conflicts through a 1,090-strong network of peace ringleaders.

In **Sierra Leone**, where Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is a serious issue, UNDP financed and provided logistical support to Saturday Courts. The courts focus on women's issues, and have expedited judicial processes, clearing a backlog of 700 cases in 2011.

Bridging the Gap between Emergency and Long-Term Development: By facilitating early recovery, UNDP supports households, ex-combatants, their associated members and internally displaced people so they can recover their livelihoods through employment and income-generation activities.

UNDP helped the Government of **Burundi** to put into place a 3-stage scheme allowing ex-combatants and people affected by war to rebuild livelihoods through community projects. The participants earn a salary in the first stage, pool their savings for business projects in the second and are supported by micro-

finance institutions and business incubators in the third. The programme has created thousands of jobs and improved community relations in the provinces with the highest numbers of internally displaced persons.

In **Kenya**, UNDP is working with UNHCR to support host communities facing additional stress from both the drought and the influx of refugees from Somalia. UNDP is also scaling-up existing poverty reduction programmes to address immediate needs while bridging longer-term development. This involves emergency work schemes for rehabilitating community infrastructure, and support for income diversification.

Disaster Risk Management: We work to ensure disaster risk reduction and climate risk management are built into national and local development plans, with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Between 2010 and 2012 and with USD 2.7 million from the Japan-financed Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP), UNDP partnered with the Government of **Ghana** to bolster disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the district level. The scheme supported the national disaster reduction agency, National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), to establish hazard maps in those five districts with high flood and drought risks, as well as locations for safe havens and evacuation routes.

In **Uganda**, UNDP has helped assess the impact of climate change on coffee production- a major source of local livelihoods and the national GDP. Meanwhile, UNDP helped to establish **Mozambique's** National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) which now coordinates Disaster Risk Reduction support amongst relevant government sectors.

Building global partnerships for crisis prevention and recovery: UNDP is working closely with its partners in the UN and beyond in complex, challenging situations. UNDP is a key partner of the Peace-building Support Office and the recipient agency on the ground for a large share of projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. UNDP is collaborating with the UN's Department of Political Affairs (DPA) on conflict prevention. UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are working closely together on transition and early recovery. We also work closely with Security Council-mandated missions to build long-term capacity for peace and long-term development. *For more information, please visit www.undp.org/africa*



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